

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **AUSTIN PART OF STATE DELEGATION VISITING FAR EAST**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Terri J. Austin (D-Anderson) will be a key member of an Indiana delegation that will embark on a nine-day trip to the Far East on Saturday (July 30) to explore trade and investment opportunities with Japan and Taiwan.

Austin is one of only six state lawmakers making the trip led by Gov. Mitch Daniels. The 78-person delegation will include several members of the Daniels Administration, Anderson Mayor Kevin S. Smith and other municipal officials from across the state, representatives from Indiana's colleges and universities, and a number of business leaders, including Greg Winkler from the city of Anderson.

"This is one of the largest delegations in state history, and many of us believe it will have a lasting impact on our state's economic development picture for many years to come," said House Democrat Leader B. Patrick Bauer from South Bend. "This is a chance for our state to show off many of our future leaders, and I cannot think of anyone who exemplifies that better than Terri Austin. Her experience and expertise on economic and educational issues will be of immense help in making the types of connections that can have long-term benefits for Indiana."

Included in the group's itinerary will be visits with government leaders in both Japan and Taiwan, and meetings with officials with a number of potential business partners, such as Toyota, Mitsubishi and Fuji Heavy Industries.

"We also will be conducting three business seminars with potential investors to demonstrate the assets that Indiana can offer industries looking to locate operations in the United States," Austin said. "Experts will tell you that these types of face-to-face meetings can be critical in making economic development decisions.

"You can look at all the facts and figures you want, but the greatest asset we have to sell Indiana is our workforce, the people who run our businesses and toil in our factories," she continued. "They demonstrate the Hoosier work ethic that makes an investment in this state a wise one."

During the trip, the delegation also will tour the World Expo in Nagoya, Japan, and visit the Tochigi Prefecture, Indiana's sister state in Japan. In preparation for the trip, Austin met with representatives of the Elsa Corporation, located in Elwood. She will also meet with their parent corporation, the Sakamoto Company, while she is in Japan. Representatives of the Sakamoto Corporation have been invited to the Friends of Indiana Reception being hosted by Governor Daniels and members of the state delegation.

"I am pleased and honored that the governor and the leadership in the Indiana General Assembly has seen fit to include me in this visit to the Far East," Austin said.

"Through my work in the Legislature, I have tried to advance policies that encourage active exploration of economic development at all levels," she noted. "We must try to develop and expand businesses within our own borders, but we must also take full advantage of a changing global economy to entice investors from overseas to come to Indiana. My interest is providing good-paying jobs for Hoosiers over the long term, and I feel this visit will help us reach that goal."

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